

April 1993

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Recommended Citation

Newman, Wilda (1993) "IFLA in India: A Kaleidoscope of Life," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 47: Iss. 2, Article 3.
Available at: <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol47/iss2/3>

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IFLA IN INDIA: A KALEIDOSCOPE OF LIFE

By Wilda B. Newman

BACKGROUND

The 58th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) General Conference was held in New Delhi, India, August 30-September 5, 1992, Taj Palace Hotel. But, that doesn't really set the stage for what was in store for some 1500 delegates from around the world; about 10 percent were from the United States. There was no coup d'état, as the conference experienced in 1991 in the ex-Soviet Union, but for most of us there was lots of excitement, meeting up with colleagues and friends, and a very good conference.

The excitement began for Vere Achong (Trinidad), Minkie Jefferson (Jamaica), and myself when I introduced myself to them at the airport in New Delhi. They looked like delegates and they joined me in my pre-arranged car to the hotel. Seconds into the ride, I exclaimed that this was better than an "E" ride at Disney; I explained further that E-rides or attractions at Disney World were considered *the best*. Words can not describe the driving that takes place in India, other than to point out that India, under British rule for so many years, adopted driving on the left-hand side of the street. It ends there, however, for it appears there are no rules or regulations—at

first. After several rides, you gasp less, and leave your eyes open *most* of the time, only flinching at "real incredible" situations. You also adjust, somewhat, to the Indian rhythm indulged in throughout their transportation system. There are taxies and other cars, tempos (a three wheel taxi-like vehicle—less expensive than a taxi), buses, elephants, camels, bicycles, and lots of motorcycles—with whole families on board and the women dressed in beautiful saris with a myriad of bright colors flowing in the midst of it all, in a rhythmic gyration of motion and color. The streets of New Delhi are wide boulevards, that remind one of the city of Paris. Beautiful with large, old trees, with a variety of shades of green, parks, and impressive statues, and buildings along the way, and monkeys swinging in the trees, climbing poles, and playing with each other. Monkeys in India are like squirrels in the United States—but perhaps the monkeys are more aggressive.

The host of the IFLA General Conference was the Indian Library Association (ILA) at the all-India level. The Indian Organizing Committee (IOC) was appointed by the Government of India. The IOC consisted of Girja Kumar, Chairman; Subhas C. Biswas, Secretary General; M.M. Kashyap, Joint-Secretary.

Members included: Indian Library Association, C.P. Vashisht, A.P. Gakhar, Krishan Kumar; Association of Government Librarians and Information Specialists, V.K. Rangra; Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists in India, S.S. Sandhu; Central Secretariat Library, N. Sikdar; Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre, S.S. Murthy; Delhi Library Association, Harish C. Jain; Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres, B.K. Sen; Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science, G.V.S.L. Narasimha Raju; Indian Institute of Technology Library Delhi, Mohinder Singh; Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre, T. Viswanathan; Jamia Milia Islamia Library, S. Ansari; Jawaharla Nehru University Library, S. Ashraf; National Information System for Science and Technology, DSIR, A. Lahiri; National Library, Calcutta, Kalpana Dasgupta; National Social Science Documentation Centre, K.G. Tyagi; Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, B.P. Barua; Sarada Ranganathan; Endowment for Library Science, M.A. Gopinath; Society for Information Science, H.C. Jain.

The venue was special for another reason: India was celebrating the Birth Centenary of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the father of library science in India. The HINDU newspaper released a commemorative volume for the occasion, that was distributed to the conference delegates entitled The HINDU Speaks on Libraries. The Department of Posts, Government of India, released a four-color postage stamp during the official opening ceremony, featuring Ranganathan's Portrait.

THEME AND PAPERS GIVEN

This year's theme, "Library and Information Policy Perspective," was described in the program as both "...relevant and topical, with countries all over the world presently engaged in developing and strengthening their library and information systems particularly in view of the application of new technologies. In information-oriented societies, countries are required to evolve and adopt such policies as an integral part of their scientific, technical, cultural, economic and social development. Library and information services have been recognized as providing basic input for planning and for modernization of different sectors of society such as education, culture, and economy; this provides a conceptual framework for progress. Users, individual library professionals and associations, policy-makers, and others need to work within a broad national framework to achieve the most out of diminishing resources." The Conference provided a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas and to share experience with professionals from different parts of the world. Sub-topics included: "(1) Conceptual framework for national library and information policies; (2) Organization and design of [the] national library system for effective operations—differences between the regions around the world; (3) Role of public, academic and special libraries in providing information needs; (4) Users and their needs—promotion of literacy; services to multi-lingual populations, minorities and disadvantaged people; role of new technologies in supporting information needs; (5) Staff training and development; (6) Impact of national policies on scientific, technical, cultural

and social development; and (7) Role of regional and international cooperation.”

The Opening Session was run by President Robert Wedgeworth, the second American President of IFLA, who noted that this was the third general conference in Asia since 1980 and the first in Delhi, meeting one of the goals of IFLA, that of reaching out to developing countries. President Wedgeworth noted that the first American President of IFLA was a librarian at the University of Michigan from 1915-1941 and promoted an international approach to librarianship and promoted university graduate studies for the profession. The Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World Core Programme (ALP) has as a main objective “...to promote the progressive improvement of library and information services in the developing countries, so as to enable them to play an active role in national development.”

At the same session a UNESCO representative discussed special projects, one of which is a joint effort with Kodak to preserve materials before they are destroyed by either a man-made or natural disaster—the Memory of the World project.

Mr. Girja Kumar, Chairman of the IOC, welcomed the delegates and said “...The times are indeed auspicious according to the Indian calendar. Varsha Rithu (the rainy season) is the occasion for celebrations. In the old time Vedic tradition, it was customary to invoke the following benediction: Let thy fields be soaked with plentiful rain.” The monsoons are indeed the lifeline of this country.

The most lyrical description of the rainy season is to be found in ancient texts like Valmiki's *Ramayana*. Here is

the beautiful depiction of the monsoons in its *kishkundha Kanda*: “Rivers rush onwards, clouds discharge their rain, the winds grow more fair, lovers yearn for their loved ones, peacocks dance and monkeys have regained their zest for life. Drunk with the aroma of the blossoming Ketaka trees amongst the thundering waterfalls, the grand elephants mix their amorous trumpeting with the peacock's cries.” Shall we wish the cool breeze to waft you during your entire stay here, or, to employ the words of great Kalidasa (in this *Meghaduta*): “Wet them gently but not with a thunderous downpour, for they are easily frightened.” For the most part, the rains were gentle, as well as polite, with heavier downpours coming for a lot of us when we were inside at meetings and other functions, or in transit—often by the conference-provided buses.

According to Mr. Kumar the fruition of the 58th IFLA General Conference was through the gracious invitation of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1982. He also referred to S.R. Ranganathan and his similar beliefs to Mahatma Gandhi in his “...back to the village movement.”

Ranganathan “...carried out his experiments with rural India as the role model.” He designed an innovative LIBRACHIN, two bullock-cart driven mobile library; this got him into the famous Mannargudi experiment. It was based on the principle of self-help. Since [the] majority of the villagers were illiterate, he made use of the oral tradition to impart learning.

“This experiment is extremely pertinent to the plans of IFLA to spread the message of [the] public library movement in the third world. It is also very relevant in connection with the 100

percent literacy campaign in this country. Complete success has been claimed for several districts of the country. The danger lies in lapsing into illiteracy. The literacy campaign is in danger of meeting the same fate, unless it is backed by well-modulated library services. Here Ranganathan becomes highly relevant. By putting together the principle of self-help, by employing appropriate technology, by taking resort to local resources and by the employment of folk media, it would be possible to spread the message of [the] public library movement rapidly in the third world."

Mr. Shri Arjun Singh, Minister for Human Resources Development also addressed delegates at the opening session. He noted the special significance of this year's theme to India and discussed how this related to their implementation of the "Report on the National Policy on Libraries and Information Systems," over the next five years. "This envisages a systematic development of the infrastructure of libraries to integrate [the] literacy and educational programmes and activities with the existing library and information system at all levels."

Mr. Singh said, "In the post independence era, a major concern of the Central and State Governments has been to give attention to education and literacy programmes which are vital to bring social and cultural development to [India] through the development of qualitatively better, informed man-power. As a result, it has been the concern of the Government of India to bring in a radical programme of development in the library and information system, closely linked with its educational and cultural policies."

He continued, "...information and communication technologies have a vital role to play in linking libraries, information centres and databases through local, national, and international networking. India has already made some progress in establishing these multilevel linkages through INFLIBNET, NICNET, DISNET, INDONET, and other networks, but much remains to be done. To help [in] upgrading our library manpower, the Government of India through its National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) programme and the University Grants Commission have taken major training and orientation programmes in the field of library modernization."

The featured plenary session speaker was Professor Eric de Grolier, Conseil International des Sciences Sociales, Paris, France, who spoke on "Library and Information Policy Perspectives and Ranganathan's Heritage." Grolier, educated at the Sorbonne, in the field of Scientific Documentation, worked with Ranganathan from 1953-1961 and considered him not only the founding father of the library movement of India but also one of the small circle of founding fathers of Information Science, which includes Library Science.

Professor Grolier reviewed the five laws of library science first published in 1931 by Dr. Ranganathan. He described these as: (1) Books are for use; (2) Every reader his book; (3) Every book its reader; (4) Save the time of the reader; and (5) The library is always growing. These were published again in 1957 and updated in 1969, taking into account changes in the field of library and information science, according to Grolier.

Grolier felt that these basic rules still apply today to the delivery of information and that democracy depends on enlightenment as a necessity. The legacy of Ranganathan, 20 years after his death, is intact. Grolier said, "he was a charismatic leader...a strong personality and his teachings formed the basis of much of the theory used today by the profession..." but he doubted that those people that use these theories along with the recent technological innovations, like hypertext, recognize their debt to Ranganathan for their work. "He served his profession by virtue of example and perseverance."

Some of the contributed papers are noted here: "National Information Policy and the Third World Countries," Kishni Navalani, Department of Library and Information Science, Punjabi University, Patiala, India; "Manpower Preparation toward Formulation and Implementation of Information Policies," Sajjad ur Rehman, International Islamic University, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia; "Impacto de la Biblioteca Publica en la Satisfaccion de las Necesidades de Informacion de la Comunidad," C. Rocio Herrera, Escuela Interamericana de Bibliotecologia, Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia; "Library and Information Services for Disabled Individuals," Sanjaya Mishra, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Delhi, Delhi, India.

Navalani says there is a need to create awareness of the *need* in order to get resources. She discussed the need to follow the International Year of Literacy with the International Year of the Library. It was also suggested that there is a need to attract the brightest students to the profession in order to address the

complex and challenging issues relating to information policies of countries. Rehman reviewed library schools and analyzed the courses offered, in addressing the preparedness of the library profession. He looked at the differences between developed and developing countries and found that there are many more courses offered in the developed countries.

Herrera gave her talk in Spanish. There were, however, simultaneous translations, as there are at all the IFLA conferences for English, French, Spanish, and Russian. In this case it was not a help. Ms. Herrera spoke so fast that the translator could not keep pace with her. This was somewhat unusual, in that speakers are advised to speak more slowly than they normally do. This enables those who may know the language as a second language to understand more easily, as well as promoting a better translation into the other languages. The published paper was also in Spanish.

Mishra, a graduate student, had his paper selected by the IFLA Coordinating Board and the IOC. His paper focused on the need to develop library courses for servicing the handicapped.

I have copies of all of these papers, as well as all of the papers published in the proceedings. Anyone interested in copies may contact me.

Speaking of papers, never have I seen so much coverage by the media of any conference. There were articles in both English and Hindi language newspapers. Special sections of major newspaper and interviews were published. The *Delhi Diary*, the hotel weekly on things around town featured the IFLA conference on its front cover. The conference was also reported on

television. All of this organized by the Press and Publicity Sub-committee of the IOC.

ORGANIZATIONS VISITED

Another, always enticing event, at the IFLA meetings is the opportunity to visit organizations, businesses, libraries, and information centers. These functions require a great deal of work and preparation by the host facilities, and significant coordination. One of the facilities visited was the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) at 14, Satsang Vihar Marg, New Delhi, 110067-India. INSDOC has regional offices in Bangalore, Madras, and Calcutta. March 20, 1992 marked the 40th Anniversary of INSDOC. The INSDOC Headquarters, Delhi, was established in 1952; Bangalore in 1964; Calcutta in 1978; and Madras in 1979. INSDOC Headquarters can be accessed by telephone, 6863617; Telex, 031-73099; Fax, 6862228; and E-mail, UUNET!SHAKT!VIKRAM!CSIRD!RN OS. Telephone numbers are available for the regional centers.

INSDOC employs 320 people at its headquarters office and serves the Science and Technology community specializing in Information Sciences and Technology. Their products and services include Document Copy Supply of scientific and technical journals from India and abroad; Online Databases including *Current Contents of India Journals* and the *National Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials in India*, and specialized databases in polymer science, Indian patents, medicinal and aromatic plants, and materials science; Contents, Abstracts and Photocopies Service (CAPS) on a yearly subscription (and INSDOC will supply full

articles on request); Bibliography/Literature Search, from INSDOC databases and international databases; Technical processing of Monographs for other Libraries, including cataloguing and classification; Bibliometric Services, doing citation analysis, determination of impact factor on journals, and evaluation of research work through bibliometric analysis; Translation and Interpretation; Electronic Imaging of Manuscripts/Graphics; Reprography—from paper to microfilm, microfiche, and photocopy; Desk Top Publishing; Slide Making; Cover Design; publisher of several publications including *Indian Science Abstracts*, *Annals of Library Science and Documentation*, *National Index of Translations*, *Directory of Indian Scientific Periodicals*; *Directory of Scientific Research Institutions in India*; and others; INSDOC also offers Referral Services and handles Technical Inquiries.

The Education and Training Division at INSDOC offers an Associateship in Information Science. Students must have some graduate studies prior to their enrollment. Courses include Indexing, Abstracting and Thesaurus Construction; Technical Writing, Bibliographic Formats, ISO 2709, CCF and UNIMARC; Bibliometrics and Infometrics; Computer Application to Library and Information Activities; Computer Communication Networks; Computerized Databases and On-line Searching; CD ROM Databases and On-line Searching; Electronic Mail; Desktop Publishing; Reprographics; and Teletex, Videotex, etc., for example.

The National Science Library (NSL) part of the Centre "...is a major resource library for Indian science and technology information generated in the country and

[is] a channel through which information is made available within and outside the country... At present NSL has over 130,000 volumes in its collection and receives about 3400 periodicals... By a special arrangement with the Soviet Union, NSL has built up one of the largest collections of Russian books and periodicals in Asia."

Reference volumes include 10,000 items, 7,000 Indian books, 28,000 Russian books, 14,000 foreign books other than Russian, and university theses, conference proceedings, science and technology reports, and United Nations publications. The NSL receives "...almost all Indian science and technology periodicals numbering 1546 and 1851 foreign periodicals, of which 600 are Russian.

The NSL is open to the public and there is no membership fee. The lending facility is open only to INSDOC staff members and to other libraries through interlibrary loan. Photocopying is available to all users for a nominal fee. Other services also incur charges of cost plus 15 percent handling.

INSDOC has SIRNET (Scientific and Technical Research Network) connected to 43 organizations throughout India. SIRNET can connect to the world with a modem, telephone, and personal computer.

According to the Director, T. VISWANATHAN the University Grants Commission has been reviewing how awarding of grants has improved the work. They have been using the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) Science Citation Index (SCI) as one source for this effort. SCI covers less than 20 Indian journals out of 4000 publications in India. There are some 1700 scientific and

technical journals published in India. To further serve the Indian scientific and technical community, INSDOC has designed a publication to complement the ISI publication, using that format. This effort began in 1990 and covers about three years now. The publication only includes Indian scientific materials.

ISI has been contacted on the INSDOC project and Dr. Garfield, according to VISWANATHAN, has responded. Whether or not there are possibilities in this area remains to be seen.

Additionally, INSDOC and the Library of Congress may also collaborate on what I understood from VISWANATHAN may include India technical reports. But, INSDOC seems bent on providing extensive services with depth, with or without partners from the United States. And, although there is no law or directive that requires publishers to deposit books with INSDOC, they have an on-going, and successful, effort to get one or two copies of every scientific and technical book published in India. INSDOC seems to practice the Gandhi philosophy published in one of the INSDOC brochures, "A customer is most important visitor in our premises. He is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him. He is not an interruption on our work. He is the purpose of it. We are not doing a favor by serving him. He is doing us a favor by giving us an opportunity to do so." This is the same philosophy now under discussion in the United States. What we call Total Quality. It felt to me as if India and its people had mastered this art. Hopefully, we can take advantage of this information in some of SLA's International Relations Committee work, beginning now. The people there are

hard-working and focussed on their mission it seems. Their facilities are not the most modern or comfortable, but their professionalism and commitment would match any in the profession. I am looking forward to establishing some long-distance communication with new-found colleagues in an effort to promote the access and availability of scientific and technical information.

Other facilities available for delegates to visit included Delhi University, Jamia Hamdard University, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre, and the Parliament Library.

The Library of Congress office New Delhi celebrated its 30th Anniversary during IFLA with a special program at the American Centre. A booklet was presented to attendees on the Library of Congress programs in South Asia. The program supports the acquisition of Indian books, published periodicals and other materials for deposit in libraries and research centers in the United States. Dorothy McGarry (UCLA), Barbara Bell (Wooster College), and I had a tour of the library at the American Centre. It was impressive and heavily used. According to our guide they serve 1000 users per day with a fairly small staff, compared to what we might expect in the U.S.

As an elected member to the Standing Committee on Information Technology, I attended both of their business committee meetings. Several other committees, discussions, and sections are interested in doing conference programs with the Information Technology (IT) committee, which comes under the Management and Technology

Division. Reports were given on the IT projects, that includes Catalogers Assistant, Graphical User Interfaces (GUI) and OSI Models. There was a lot of discussion on each project. New projects were also reviewed and plans begun for next year's conference. Sally McCallum, Library of Congress, is Chair of IT.

This year's IT open session, held September 1, 1992, was on *Planning the Introduction of Technology*. Papers included "Automation Strategies for Social Development," Kris S. Oswalt; "Computer and Software for Information Services: An Overview of Mexican Progress," Jesus Lau and Martha Castro; "Adapting Technologies for Library Processing Projects: Africa, Asia, and South America," Anton R. Pierce.

The conference theme for 1993 is "The Universal Library: Libraries as Centers for the Global Availability of Information." IFLA 1993 is scheduled for 22-28 August in the Congress Hall, Barcelona, Spain.

As one of its activities IT is planning the 2nd Satellite Meeting on *Automated Systems for Access to Multilingual and Multiscript Library Materials*, 18-19 August, 1993. This meeting is organized jointly by the Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations and IT, in cooperation with the Section on Cataloging and the National Library of Spain. It will convene at the National Library of Spain in Madrid, prior to the general IFLA conference. The first such meeting was held in Tokyo in 1986.

Several social and cultural events were held during the conference in New Delhi. Three wonderful music and dance programs were held, one at Siri Fort

Auditorium, Kathak Dance Recital: Pandit Birju Maharaj; another at Kamani Auditorium, Indian Classical Dance: Madhavi Mudgal in Odissi style, and Leela Samson in Bharatanatyam style; and Folk Dances of North-Eastern India: Manipur Jagoimarup Group at the Sri Ram Centre, Murlidhar Auditorium. The costumes were brilliant colors and the music and chants delightful and presented another side of life in India, its culture.

The Ambassador of France to India, Philippe Petit, gave a reception at the French Embassy for IFLA delegates, along with Pierre Barroux, Counsellor for Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. And, the Ambassador of the United States and Mrs. Pickering held a reception for delegates representing the United States, at 17 Amrita Shergill Marg, the Deputy's home, since the American Embassy was under repair and the Ambassador and his wife had only been at their post in India a few weeks.

OVERVIEW

There is much too much to report from an international conference like IFLA. But one can always report on it as an experience different from other professional conferences. It is often an awakening from a parochial perspective and an enlightenment on how much there is to do as well as how much is being done. Renewing friendship, seeing colleagues, and continuing both the work and fun half way round the globe is invigorating as well. It serves to not only renew our faith and dedication to the profession but to ourselves as one people on a planet that shrinks more and more. And, our work with networking, both personally and electronically, as well as

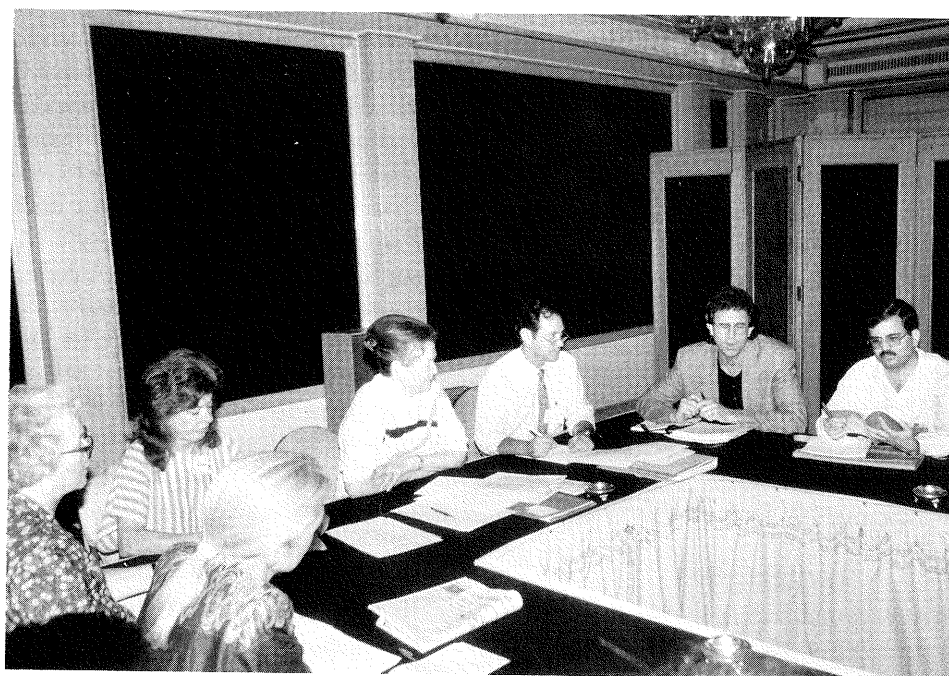
our reviewed efforts within the Special Libraries Association on international relations, promises to offer even greater challenges to the information societies and an equal number of rewards to each of us as participants.

Some of us bade farewell to colleagues and friends at the end of the conference to begin post-conference tours. Monica Ertel (Apple Computer), Joseph Busch (Getty Art History Information Program), Ellie Mathews and Olivia Madison (Iowa State University of Science and Technology), and I travelled by coach from Delhi to Jaipur and then to the glorious Taj Mahal in Agra. Monica, Joseph, and I continued on by air from Agra to Khajuraho, Varanasi, Kathmandu-Nepal and back to Delhi. The sights, sounds, and colors will be with us forever and the delights we found together while touring this spectacular country. The pink city and the lovely, delicate structure of the Wind Palace, the 5:30 a.m. boat ride on the Ganges River with the devoted bathing and the family male members taking care of family cremations along its banks, to the celebratory evenings in Kathmandu giving thanks for the monsoon, and seeing the six-year old living goddess Kumari, carried through the old city on her throne and given drink (a rice wine) from the mouth of the statue of the god of terror. We took it all in and captured what we could on film, knowing that our photographs would be a mere shadow of the visions before us for these several days.

Yes, and we saw the poverty. The poverty we as Americans see and hear so much about. But what we do not see and hear much about in India is the spirit of India. I think my definition of poverty has

changed. It is true that when compared to U.S. standards relative to material things, many in India live in poverty. But, there is no poverty in the Indian people of spirit—perhaps there is a lesson in that for us, as we prepare to move into the 21st century and to develop our International Relations through SLA.

Wilda B. Newman is Information Resources Manager for the Administrative Services Department at The Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory, Bld. 7, Room 278, Laurel, MD 20723-6099. She is the current Chair of SLA's International Relations Committee.



Business Meeting of the Standing Committee on Information Technology IFLA, New Delhi, India, 1992. Starting with foreground, Francoise Lemelle, France; Kyllikki Ruokonen, Finland; Wilda Newman, USA; Sally McCallum, Chairperson, USA; Christian Lupovici, France; Leigh Swain, Canada; Xavier Agento, Spain. Other attending but not shown included Monica Ertel, USA.



Information Technology Standing Committee Open Session, *Planning the Introduction of Technology*, 1 September 1992. Speaker Jesus Lau presenting paper co-authored with Martha Castro, entitled, "Computer and Software for Information Services: An Overview of Mexican Progress." Sally McCallum, Chairperson, USA; and Substitute Speaker from the Library of Congress.

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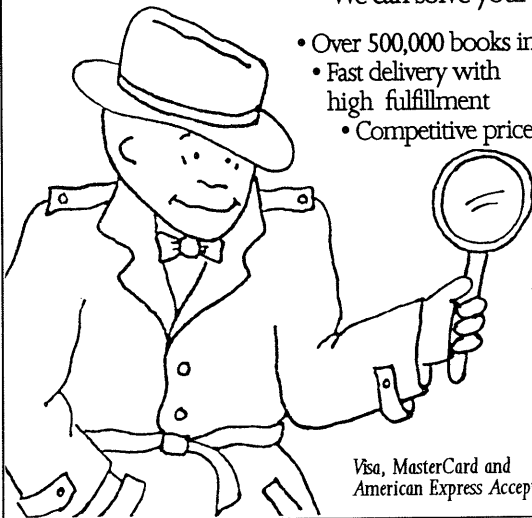
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English edition editor: Robert M. Jones

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Edited by T. J. Chung

Keeping pace with new developments in numerical methods, this book presents various strategies applied to selected combustion problems. It introduces options of numerical techniques to solve reactive flow problems in general, and combustion problems in particular. Contributing authors have focused their attention primarily on laminar flames, turbulent flames, and spray droplet combustion. Basic numerical strategies are discussed, and certain example problems are selected for evaluation of the numerical methods and physical aspects of combustion.

April 1993 • 552pp • Hardcover 0-89116-822-2
\$199.50 (tent.)

INTENSE DYNAMIC LOADING OF CONDENSED MATTER

A. V. Bushman, et al

Translation edited by S. Chomet

English edition editor: Dr. John Shaner

Of growing pragmatic interest, high energy physics methods have led to laboratory studies of extreme states characterized by very high pressures, temperatures, and loading rates that are unattainable by other means. This book provides a critical review of both theoretical and experimental work in this rapidly expanding field, particularly thermophysics of intensive pulsed excitation.

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